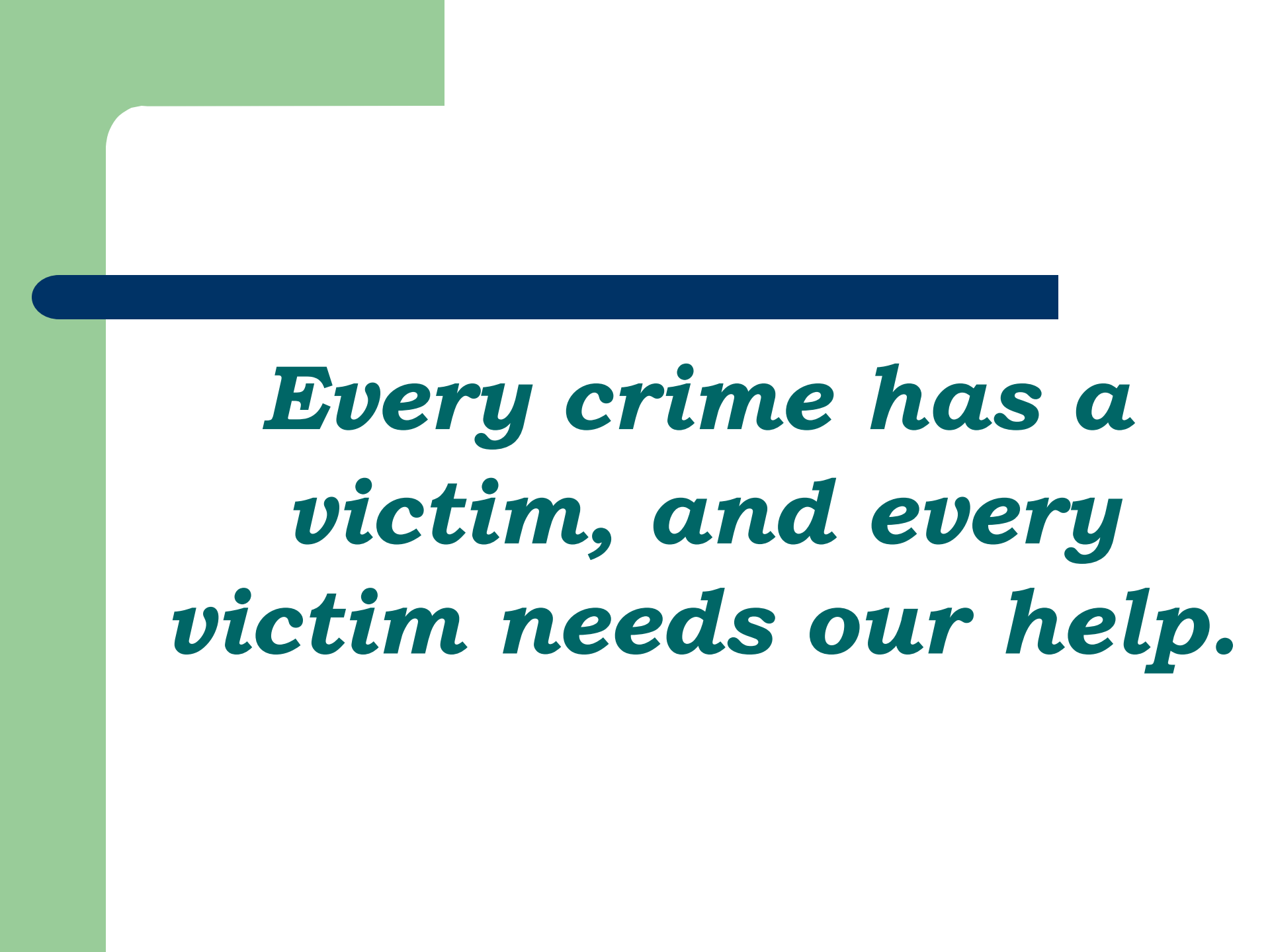


CRIME VICTIMIZATION and VICTIMS' RIGHTS

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***Every crime has a
victim, and every
victim needs our help.***

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

To provide students with information and increased knowledge on:

- The issues surrounding victims of crime
- The trauma of victimization
- The rights of crime victims
- The resources in our community
- The role law enforcement plays

OUTLINE OF COURSE

- Statistics of Crime
- Crime Categories
- Sensitivity to Victims
- Issues Victims Face

CONTINUED

- Three Stages of Crisis Reaction
- Responding to the Needs of Victims
- Victims of Crime Compensation
- Local Resources and Programs
- Conclusion



GROUP EXERCISE

HISTORY OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS

1980 – First state bill of rights for crime victims in Wisconsin

1982 - Federal Victim & Witness Protection Act passed

- *Final Report* of the President's Task Force on Victims of Crime released

HISTORY OF VICTIMS' RIGHTS

- 1982 Presidential Task Force established that victims of crime suffer harm as a result of their victimization in these ways:
 - Physical
 - Financial
 - Psychological

CRIME VICTIMS' BILL OF RIGHTS

Victims have the right to know...

- The status of the case in which they are involved.
- To be free from intimidation or dissuasion.
- When their impounded property can be released.
- That they are entitled to receive a witness fee for lawful obedience to a subpoena.

CONTINUED

- To understand the existing victim compensation laws and receive compensation, if applicable.
- To a secure waiting area, which is not available to the defendant and his/her family, when you are in court.
- When the defendant is released from custody before or during trial, upon written notice.
- When the offender is released from prison, upon written request.
- To make a Victim Impact Statement prior to sentencing.

NEVADA

Offenses known to Law Enforcement – 2007

- 19,257 Violent crime offenses
- 192 Murder and non-negligent manslaughter
- 1,096 Forcible rape
- 6,932 Robbery
- 11,037 Aggravated assault
- 96,916 Property crime

Source: http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_08_nv.html

NATIONWIDE STATISTICS

- In 2007, there were an estimated 1,408,337 violent crimes reported. *
- In 2007, law enforcement agencies made 4,743.3 arrests for each 100,000 in population for the 29 offenses for which the UCR program collects arrest data.**
- The majority (69.7%) of persons arrested in 2007 were white. Whites accounted for 58.9% and 67.9% of persons arrested for violent crimes and property crimes, respectively.**

CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON

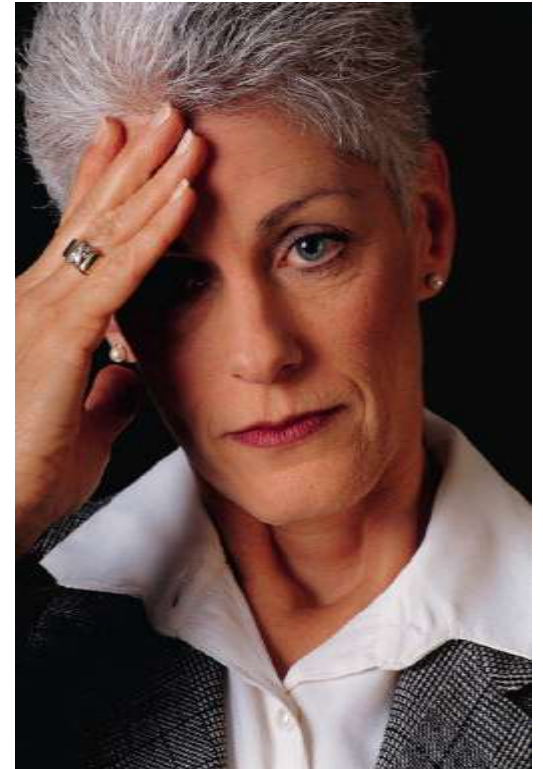
- Homicide
- Sexual Assault
- Robbery
- Assault/Battery, all levels
- Domestic Violence
- Hate Crimes
- Child Abuse

CONTINUED

- Stalking
- Gang Violence
- Drug/Drunk Driving – death & injury
- Elder Abuse
- Theft Crimes
- Vandalism
- Embezzlement

THREE STAGES OF CRISIS INTERVENTION

- Initial Trauma
- Reactionary
- Reorganization



FIRST STAGE - INITIAL TRAUMA

- Shock, disbelief and denial
- Emotional upheaval characterized by feelings such as:
 - Outrage
 - Frustration
 - Confusion
 - Terror
 - Self Blame/Guilt
 - Grief, etc.

THE VICTIM NEEDS

- To be in a non-threatening and safe atmosphere
- Reassurance that someone cares and understands the chaos the crime has caused
- To be reassured that the crime was not their fault and that they are not blamed for the incident

VENTILATION AND VALIDATION

- A chance to tell their own story in their own words and in their own way
- Reassurance that their feelings are normal and that they are not crazy

WHAT OFFICERS CAN DO

- Tell the victim honestly what they can expect from the criminal justice system in terms of investigation, arrest, and prosecution.
- Tell the victim what they can expect next.
- Allow the victim to vent and tell their story prior to the report interview.

CONTINUED

- Make the victim feel comfortable during the interview.
- Inform the victim of what referral resources are available and how they can get further help.
- Call an advocate and/or chaplain.



SECOND STAGE - REACTIONARY

- The victim tries to adapt to the situation
- Must deal with feeling of fear, anger, denial, alienation and helplessness
- Much of criminal justice interfacing occurs in this stage, on-going police investigation, media, court proceedings.

NINE POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS

- Physical – nightmares, fatigue, extreme weight changes
- Intellectual – flashbacks, trouble concentrating
- Emotional – may feel loss of purpose in life, sadness

CONTINUED

- Relational – disruptive to interpersonal relationships
- Financial – medical, funeral, counseling, loss of work, crime scene clean-up
- Spiritual – belief system may be compromised

CONTINUED

- Employment related – unable to work, “workaholics”
- Media – intimidated by press, publication of name, address
- Legal and Judicial – unfamiliar with system and it is insensitive

THIRD STAGE - REORGANIZATION

- Some victims never reach this stage because they have not received the necessary mental health care to start the reconstruction process.
- As time passes, some of the wounds will appear to heal. Setbacks will come with anniversary of the crime, birthdays, etc.

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION

Success looks different for everyone in terms of healing. For some, survival is success. For others, healing can be hard work, painful, and worthwhile. Many survivors become activists and work towards new and better laws, resources, etc.

NRS CHAPTER 217

AID TO CERTAIN VICTIMS OF CRIME

- Policy of the State NRS 217.010
- Board of Examiners NRS 217.030
- Crime NRS 217.035
- Personal Injury NRS 217.050
- Victim NRS 217.070
- Payment NRS 217.200

CONTINUED

- Victim Eligibility NRS 217.220
- Sexual Assault Victims NRS.217.290
 - County Sexual Assault Fund
- Initial Medical Care,
 - Sexual Assault/Abuse NRS 217.300
- Treatment Time Limitations NRS 217.340
- Sexual Abuse Victims, County NRS 217.480

SUGGESTED PROGRAMS AND PROCEDURES

- Provide updated information to crime victims
- Provide contact names and numbers for specific agencies they will deal with.
- Refer to community resource and state compensation programs
- Prosecutors can consult with victim regarding plea bargains and other negotiations
- Victim impact statement considered prior to sentencing.
- Provide advocacy throughout entire process.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

- V.I.N.E.
- Shelters
- State of Nevada's Program to Compensate Victims of Violent Crime
- 24 hour hotlines for assistance:
 - Suicide: 1-877-885-HOPE (4673)
 - Domestic Violence: 1-800-500-1556
 - Crisis: 1-800-992-5757
 - Health & Human Services Info: Dial 211
- Counseling

MORE RESOURCES

- Confidential Address Program

Ph: 775-684-5707 <http://secretaryofstate.biz/cap>

- Temporary Protection Orders

- Stalking/Harassment Orders

ADVOCATES

- Purpose
- Systems vs. Non-Profit
- Agencies
- Access To
- Benefit To You
- Team Approach / Coordination

REMEMBER.....The Quality of Justice Depends on the Treatment of the Victim

A Victim should be able to expect from the officer:

- Compassion For Loss
- Understanding Of The System
- Willingness To Listen
- Tolerance For Frustration & Anger

*Justice is an intellectual concept,
inevitably trumped by emotion.
Justice is the word we use when we
cannot have what we really want,
which is everything back the way it
was. Justice is only a consolation
prize.*

~~Lisa Scottoline



Questions??

Contact Us

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